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Unwholesome Process

AN unusual if not unique prosecution in Victoria has ended in the conviction of a former private detective on a charge of fabricating evidence in two actions for divorce. The case itself undoubtedly will arouse interest in other parts of Canada, not so much because of the result and the somewhat bizarre circumstances disclosed as for the attention thus directed to the divorce laws of this country. Those advocating wider grounds for divorce may be counted on to use this case in support of their arguments.

In some respects the prosecution recalls to mind the brilliant satire, "Holy Deadlock," which Sir A. P. Herbert wrote in the 30s on the state of the divorce laws of Great Britain where, as in Canada still, adultery then constituted the only cause for legal dissolution of marriage. It is freely acknowledged that divorce reform in Britain owed its passage largely to that famous book and to "APH's" equally cutting comments on the divorce law in the "Misleading Cases" which he used to write for Punch.

In the eight provinces of Canada where divorce may be obtained by court decree adultery remains the sole ground on which a petition will be entertained. For that reason husbands and wives who find it impossible to go on living together have only two alternatives: to remain legally bound by ties which have ceased to mean anything to them, or to go to the courts with sordid evidence of misconduct.

It is common knowledge that in many instances divorce proceedings are instituted unlawfully with the assent of both parties, who enter into collusion to provide evidence of adultery in a form which has become stereotyped. Usually the husband does the "gentlemanly thing" by agreeing to provide evidence of illicit relationships which in fact may never have existed and in which the other party may have been a total stranger assisting for a fee. The courts are aware of this practice and detest it. Many judges have made acid comments thereon, and some have refused to grant petitions because of suspicion that there had been collusion.

The private detective in Victoria did what many others have done, but was careless. That fact neither exonerated him nor mitigated the seriousness of the crime. It does, however, direct attention to the existence of a system fostering disrespect for a process of law.

Sales Abroad

AT every soft spot in its economy in the past Canada turned with renewed vigor to finding overseas markets for its exports and devising national policies which would encourage the building up of its external trade balances. Not even with more than 17,000,000 people now in it can this nation absorb all of its own output. In many primary lines there are large surpluses available for export, if markets can be found for them. Although it may be a more difficult time in which to sell, the same need is before the country today as it has often been in the past. Canadian industries, now with larger capacities than before, have to operate in both markets, at home and abroad.

The current year may be a difficult one in which to discover fresh openings for Canadian products on the highly competitive markets of the world. Great Britain, the United States and Canada, to mention only three trading lands, all are concerned this year with special export drives. Political and economic changes in Europe maturing slowly in the last decade have not yet crystallized in terms of world trade, leaving doubt as to the nature and volume of imports that the continent will permit or encourage from other lands. The Middle East is in something of a ferment, while the Far East through open hostility to Western aims is not a likely trading area at present.

Despite the visible handicaps, Canada's continuing need to move its surplus goods to market remains basic and urgent. The British West Indies and the South American markets have shown some openings which should be followed up. Monetary factors making an increase of trade with other Commonwealth lands in the Pacific difficult for Canada may still be present but trading conditions have been altering also in those lands. Federal and provincial advisory trade offices throughout Canada could well be co-ordinated in an objective survey of overseas markets in the coming months. Industry is already doing a good deal towards the same end, but a step-up of the whole process seems needed if it is to be effective.

It Is Some Insurance

IF it were the considered opinion of Oak Bay council that civil defence was useless there might be better understanding of its intention to quit this organization. Elsewhere in the free world some municipalities have reached this conclusion. Governments, however, still voice reliance on civil defence as a worthwhile factor in an emergency.

Oak Bay's complaint is founded on the belief it is not getting value for its money. Such value might be hard to assess. At $1,200 a year the expenditure does not seem excessive. Even if only one life were saved in course of some atomic disaster this sum might be concluded as being well spent.

No one knows for sure that civil defence would prove as effective as its sponsors hope. On the other hand no one knows for sure that it wouldn't. It is hard to imagine, however, that trained personnel and an organization in being would not be able to ameliorate to some degree the human damage everyone associates with nuclear warfare. As with other things, so with civil defence. It is better to have some insurance than none at all.

Other Greater Victoria municipalities are of different mind, and perhaps Oak Bay cannot afford to stay out. It would be ironical if on some day of emergency Oak Bay residents watched their neighbors being succoured while they went without aid. And all for the sake of $1,200. Money would then have picayune value. The Oak Bay councillors are to have a chat with the CD director before finally casting the die. They might yet decide after all that their municipality is not so short of money as to take a needless chance.

Interpreting the News

Air Space Pleas Dubious

By ED SIMON
Canadian Press Staff Writer

WHAT baffles many Britons about the dispute over the Berlin air corridor is the weakness of the arguments put forward by both sides.

Russia's case for imposing a 10,000-foot limit on the corridor is based on the alleged requirements of Soviet and East German military aircraft, which are purported to zoom about the upper air in such profusion that an interloping Western cargo plane constitutes a menace to air safety.

If the argument has a virtue, it is that of simplicity. The same cannot be said for the reasons advanced by the United States for its insistence on breaking through the ceiling.

The U.S. claim is split between the practical consideration that it is uneconomical to fly its modern planes at low altitudes, and the question of principle that required the Western powers to assert their right to navigate the corridor at the height of their choice.

A number of subsidiary points from both sides deal with the wider questions of Berlin and Germany in particular and world peace in general, but have little direct bearing on the flights themselves.

Perhaps the Russian stand is the easiest to demolish. Bearing in mind that every aircraft using the corridor must file a flight plan covering all details of its passage, it would appear improbable that the Russians cannot find enough East German air to accommodate their planes while the Western transports come through.

But the American side of it fares little better. The entire 100-mile corridor from Berlin to the West German border can be flown in less than half an hour by a modern aircraft, which presumably would have to spend some of that time reaching the 10,000-foot level after take-off or letting down before landing.

While these geographic factors limit the potential savings of high altitude flying, the attempt to establish principles of airlift operation in event of a new blockade are even less realistic.

If the Russians chose to cut off the overland routes to the capital, it is accepted that the West would do everything in its power to supply Berlin by air. The Russian choice would be as simple as it was in 1948—to permit the flights or to stop them.

"Well, I guess we're all ready for 'em now"

Thinking Aloud

". . . of shoes—and ships—and sealing wax—of cabbages and kings."

By TOM TAYLOR

AN ARTIST, if he is not in an abstract mood and has the right touch, can paint a rose that looks ready to be picked or a cigarette that seems asking to be puffed.

They appear more real than the real thing.

A camera is better at the business, although it can do some queer tricks in reverse. Perhaps the blame in this instance lies in that mysterious place the dark room. Thinking of some experiences of my own, I hope so.

For purposes of our theme, however, let's consider television. Cameras are at work here too, naturally, but unless the broadcast is from taped film it might seem wrong to suggest that live TV is not the real thing.

* * *

It is too, yet we are looking at an image and not precisely at the persons or persons themselves. If the camera is well trained of course it will reflect them truly enough.

Indeed when it comes to sporting events a television broadcast is better than the real thing, or so it seems. In a collective sense, that is.

Let us take three far-removed examples: a Grey Cup game in Vancouver, a world's soccer game in Stockholm, and last Thursday's hockey playoff in Toronto. Like some of my readers, probably, the eyes of yours truly witnessed all three via the television lens.

And in each case the result was a sharper, clearer picture than a spectator could have sitting in either of the three stadiums concerned. For one thing attention was focussed only on what the camera showed and there was no distraction. No one sat near cracking peanuts, for instance, or disturbed the concentration by raucous cries.

The real thing, actual presence at an event, has certain advantages.

You feel yourself part of the business and the atmosphere may electrify you. But you don't note the finer points of the play so well even if you are looking at them directly. The human eye, having a mind behind it, records an impression; the camera eye, being mechanical, records the bare fact.

And in addition television brings everything much closer.

* * *

The television camera is apt to put itself out of business. Nowadays it does its job so wonderfully well that once it gets around that one sees better at home that's where people may stay.

And naturally if there are no spectators there won't be any events in future and then there will be no TV broadcast. Everything these days forms a vicious circle.

I mentioned the collective sense. The camera undoes itself, or rather its subject, where personal close-ups are concerned. Anyone looking later at himself being interviewed on TV is not so likely to conclude the camera is better than the real thing.

So I would judge from what I've seen. What comes to mind then are those passport photos that must puzzle immigration officers no end. They seem so far from the real thing one feels a fraud while carrying one.

Or is it just that the camera is more real than the painted rose after all? I said above it records the bare fact. Alas, where the human ego is concerned, maybe that's the trouble.

Gerald Waring

Reports from Ottawa

THE Canadian proposal that the West try to introduce a "United Nations presence" into the Berlin picture has a lot to commend it, but it may not survive even the initial scrutiny by NATO's four-power working group in Paris.

This group, composed of the United States, Britain, France and West Germany, was handed the job of screening, assessing and correlating all the suggestions advanced at the NATO ministerial council meeting in Washington a fortnight ago. Its distillate will be put before the NATO permanent council in Paris this week for detailed study.

Inasmuch as three members of the group—all but Britain—are believed to be cool to the idea of ringing in the UN, Ottawa is not optimistic over the prospects for its proposal. It will not be surprising if the working group decides that the time is not opportune for pursuing the Canadian suggestion.

If the proposal were to find general acceptance in NATO, including favor in American and French eyes, it would be put forward at the May 11 conference of the Big Four foreign ministers—the conference that is to be the prelude to a summit parley this summer. But there would have to be this high degree of NATO acceptance. Britain alone could not press the idea on the Russians at the May meeting without parading Western differences before the Soviets and weakening the West's bargaining position. Division in our ranks could be fatal to our hopes for negotiating an acceptable solution to the Berlin dilemma.

* * *

Prime Minister Diefenbaker told the Commons that the Canadian proposal was offered "as a basis for discussion" and "would be complementary to the rights and obligations of the four occupying powers."

It would also be contingent on these four powers — the U.S., the U.S.S.R., the U.K., and France—reaching agreement on their differences over Berlin, and particularly agreement to accord the UN a useful role in Berlin. While the UN Assembly conceivably could act under the "Uniting for Peace" resolution and put UN observers or police troops in Berlin despite Soviet opposition, their usefulness would be minimized if the Russians and East Germans refused to recognize their authority and treat with them.

The PM and Defence Minister Pearkes have been vague, and no doubt purposely so, on how the UN presence might affect the military occupation of Berlin. This leaves room for negotiation and manoeuvre.

For example, while complementary to the "rights and obligations" of the occupying powers, a substantial UN force—say, 1,000 to 2,000 men—might make it feasible as well as desirable from the standpoint of easing tension for the U.S., Britain and France to withdraw most of their forces from West Berlin to West Germany. The crux of such a decision would be whether the West considered that West Berlin's freedom would be protected against Communist encroachment as adequately by a UN force as by the occupying national forces.

* * *

I am impressed by Pearkes' argument that "the effective introduction of the United Nations into the Berlin situation . . . could serve to engage the interest of other governments in the freedom and independence of Berlin in a way which no agreement reached solely among the occupying powers could do."

It can also be added, I think, that to engage such interest among the uncommitted nations it is necessary to place the rights of the Big Four in Berlin on some other footing than the present basis of military conquest 14 years ago. This would be a function of any new agreement reached at the summit.

The Packsack

Of GREGORY CLARK

A WRITER recently referred to our new outlying housing developments as "package suburbs." It is an apt and perhaps cruelly apt phrase. We are being packaged. Life itself is being packaged.

And the slightly fearful thought arises that maybe the time has come when life has to be packaged. There are so many of us, and we have so swarmed into huge communities, that about the only way we can be efficiently handled socially, physically and economically is in that we submit to being done up as packages. Humanity in bulk does not fit into the new mechanical scheme.

Many of our educators of high standing are protesting with growing vehemence against the "package" education that our children are being given. For ten and perhaps twenty years the best sellers among our novelists and dramatists have been concentrating bitterly and often scandalously on the lives of off-beat and rebellious elements in our society which are anything but packaged. If these literary efforts are intellectual assaults on the trend towards the packaging of life, they have failed. Everybody reads them, and then cuddles all the more cosily into their packages.

Two well-known packages, nazism and fascism, burst. The package of communism still seems to be tight in the seams, so far.

What's the name of the package we are being done up in?

Cut to Ribbons

WE have never written a play, but we feel sure it is even more difficult to write a good short play than it is to write a good short editorial. That explains why there are so many shoddy little plays on TV—by the time the playwright has introduced all his characters the half-hour allotted to him has flitted by and he must make his point in a few moments.

When he has three hours to tell his story, however, things should be different. That this is not necessarily so was demonstrated when Playhouse 90 presented Ernest Hemingway's "For Whom the Bell Tolls" in two parts.

Commercials cut the play to ribbons. Somehow we would prefer a shoddy short play to a fine long play ruined in this manner.

—BELLEVILLE INTELLIGENCER.

Washington Angle

Castro Is On Trial

By DAVID LAWRENCE

UNLIKE the treatment he gave scores of his fellow countrymen whom he ordered executed without fair trials, Fidel Castro is being given a chance to face his accusers in the United States.

For Cuba's dictator is himself on trial now in the court of public opinion in this country. He has an opportunity to make speeches before press organizations here and in New York and before some college audiences as well. He can reply to charges made against him in the news dispatches of recent weeks telling of the perfunctory trials and his application of the death penalty in more than 500 cases.

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But the major indictment against Fidel Castro is that he has done irreparable harm to the prestige of the government of Cuba in this hemisphere and throughout the world. Americans used to feel that they could go to Cuba without fear and with a feeling that this next-door neighbor was a friendly one. Today there are confirmed reports about Communist infiltration in Cuba. In fact, there are plenty of comments by Fidel Castro himself showing contempt for the United States and for Americans in general. These are unlike the utterances of any man who has previously headed the Cuban government in the more than 60 years of its existence as an independent country.

The Cuban leader keeps arguing that the dictator who preceded him was guilty of many crimes and sins against the Cuban people. But Anglo-Saxon principles of common law have for centuries set forth the truth that two wrongs do not make a single right and that even the worst criminal is entitled to a fair trial.

Fidel Castro is reported to be planning to ask the United States government for financial aid. This is surprising in view of his hostile comments about the United States. It reveals an amazing unfamiliarity with the reaction in this country to what has happened in the last few months in Cuba.

* * *

The Washington government has had to deal with dictatorships in Latin America for many years, and it tries to steer away from any intervention in internal affairs. This course is criticized at times by those who have big investments in a particular country and who usually come forth with the suggestion that America deal with the existing government and let the question of democracy or dictatorship be handled by the citizens themselves.

But the moral force of the United States is being exerted today on the side of decency and freedom for the people of every country. When deputy premier Mikoyan came here from the Soviet Union not long ago it was not widely publicized in advance that he was largely responsible for the murder of many Hungarian citizens. When the people in America did get the facts, there were many emphatic expressions of disapproval.

Fidel Castro comes to visit the United States under somewhat different circumstances. The American people have been fully advised that the Castro idea of justice is to place before a firing squad anyone he pleases who had sided with the previous government. Certainly the Batista government, which had been formally recognized as the ruling regime, may have carried on a vendetta against its enemies, but whatever happened was carefully hidden from view.

Unfortunately for Fidel Castro perhaps, the stories of the 500 or more executions of Cubans have been widely printed. The American people know what happened. Had they been told about Batista's misdeeds at the time they would have felt the same shock. But it is no excuse to say that Castro is justified now in ignoring the simple principles of justice just because Batista was a tyrant, too.

* * *

The United States government since the days of President Wilson has endeavored to discourage military revolutions as a means of changing administrations in the countries of Latin America. Back in 1913 the United States refused to recognize a government in Mexico headed by General Huerta because he rose to power by assassination of President Madero. This policy of non-recognition was subsequently modified as revolutions increased in Latin American countries. Indeed it was argued that a revolution to upset a dictator and to bring a democratic form of government was to be condoned as a necessary step and that recognition should not be withheld from such a regime.

It would be much better, however, if in all cases of revolution only de facto recognition were given to new governments and if de jure or lawful recognition were accorded later only when an election had been held that was universally accepted as a reflection of the true will of the people uninhibited by any form of coercion of the voters. In recent years, expediency has seemed to get the upper hand.